



**Strategic Facilities Committee Meeting #12  
Teleconference / Board Room at Central Office  
Garrett County Board of Education  
40 S Second Street  
Oakland, MD 21550**

**Minutes of October 7, 2019**

Facilitator: David Lever

Committee Members Present: Crystal Boal  
Jim Browning  
Karen DeVore  
Steven Kaufman  
David Lever  
Jennifer Paugh  
Kevin Null  
Carissa Rodeheaver  
Nathan Sorber  
Richard Wesolowski  
Duane Yoder

Dr. Lever called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. A few of the committee members joined the meeting in the Board Room while the other members joined via teleconference.

**I. Introductions**

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Dr. David Lever, Facilitator, welcomed the committee members and made certain that committee members had received the revised recommendations based on the committee feedback.

**II. Revised Recommendations for the Board of Education**

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**a. Summary of changes to the recommendations**

Dr. Lever spoke to the committee about the revised recommendations. Any recent changes by the committee were included in the latest version of the document (as seen in red text, strike through text, and underlined text). He stated that the goal of the meeting is to talk through each recommendation and have the committee vote of each one separately. He stated if the committee cannot get a consensus vote, then further modifications may be needed or a vote tally may be taken.

- i. The original recommendation for redistricting, reassigning students from southern area elementary schools to northern are would be deferred until the Board decision in early 2021 on

- the scope, size, cost and schedule of the Southern Middle School/Broad Ford Elementary School project.
- ii. The original capital project recommendation regarding security was initially to install security vestibules in all ten schools that do not have them. The revised recommendation is to implement up to five security vestibule projects as defined in the FY2021 CIP developed by the Superintendent and staff. The school system is eligible for grant money to assist in paying for some of these measures. The remaining projects would be included in the FY2022 CIP. The committee discussed concerns that the costs did not include bullet proof glass.
  - iii. The original capital project recommendation regarding disruptive behavior was to provide spaces in every school to support the needs of disruptive students. The revised recommendation is to undertake these projects when needed through the operating budget. This change was made after consultation with principals and staff at the receiving schools and with the staff of the Department of Facilities.
  - iv. The original capital project to provide Head Start spaces in every elementary school was deferred until a decision is made in early 2021 on redistricting and/or grade reconfiguration in relation to the Southern Middle/ Broad Ford Elementary Project.
  - v. The original capital program project to undertake at least one major building system upgrade annually was revised below:
    - a. Southern High School building envelope to be completed in FY2021
    - b. Northern High School boiler and payment to be completed in FY2022
    - c. Yough Glades Elementary parking lot and pavement to be completed in FY2023
    - d. Grantsville Elementary School to be completed in FY2026
  - vi. The original capital program project to enclose open space classrooms to create conventional instructional spaces was revised to defer construction of the first open space classroom project at Grantsville Elementary to FY 2022. The planning approval should be requested in FY2021.
  - vii. The original capital program project for Southern Middle School/Broad Ford Elementary renovation/expansion was to initiate a study to consolidate the two schools into a single building. The recommendation was revised to develop an educational specification in the first half of calendar 2020 for Board of Education consideration in late summer 2020. A third party would be engaged to develop the feasibility study that will outline options for scope, size, cost and schedule of the project.
  - viii. The original capital program project for schools with multiple educational space building deficiencies, including Crellin Elementary and Swan Meadow Schools, was deferred based on decisions of the Board in early 2021 regarding reassignment of students through redistricting and/or grade band reconfiguration.
  - ix. The original recommendation to relocate the Board of Education office from downtown Oakland to the Dennett Road facility was revised to defer decisions on the relocation of the offices until the Board has made decisions regarding reassignment of students through redistricting and/or grade band reconfiguration, and to consider other locations in addition to the Dennett Road facility.
  - x. The original recommendation to establish a standing committee to investigate the concept of a single high school was not revised.

The SFC revised its prior recommendations based on community input from the September Community Feedback Sessions, the development of the FY2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and further discussions of the committee members.

**b. Committee Vote on Revised Recommendations**

- i. **Recommendation: Secure five security vestibule projects in the FY2021 CIP with recommendation to investigate the possibility of installation of bullet proof glass as a substitute for tempered glass.**

The committee unanimously voted on this recommendation with a yea vote from Crystal Boal, Jim Browning, Karen DeVore, Steven Kaufman, Jennifer Paugh, Kevin Null, Carissa Rodeheaver, Nathan Sorber, Richard Wesolowski, and Duane Yoder.

- ii. **Recommendation: Disruptive Behavior: Provide spaces in every school to support the needs of disruptive students.**

The committee unanimously voted on this recommendation with a yea vote from Crystal Boal, Jim Browning, Karen DeVore, Steven Kaufman, Jennifer Paugh, Kevin Null, Carissa Rodeheaver, Nathan Sorber, Richard Wesolowski, and Duane Yoder.

- iii. **Recommendation: Building Systems: Undertake at least one major building system upgrade annually.**

The committee unanimously voted on this recommendation with a yea vote from Crystal Boal, Jim Browning, Karen DeVore, Steven Kaufman, Jennifer Paugh, Kevin Null, Carissa Rodeheaver, Nathan Sorber, Richard Wesolowski, and Duane Yoder.

- iv. **Recommendation: Open Space Classrooms: Enclose open space classrooms to create conventional instructional spaces.**

The committee unanimously voted on this recommendation with a yay vote from Crystal Boal, Jim Browning, Karen DeVore, Steven Kaufman, Jennifer Paugh, Kevin Null, Carissa Rodeheaver, Nathan Sorber, Richard Wesolowski, and Duane Yoder.

All of these projects except the open space classrooms are represented either in the draft FY 2021 State and local CIP, or in the operating budget. Full projects descriptions, including estimated project costs and special conditions that attach to certain projects, will be provided in the final report of the Committee.

- v. **Recommendation: Southern Middle School/Broad Ford Elementary Renovation /Expansion Project: Initiate a study to consolidate Southern Middle School and Broad Ford Elementary School as two schools within a single building.**

The Committee deferred taking action pending feedback from the County Commissioners on the feasibility of financing the project. There was considerable discussion about mixing of different age groups, about whether there were examples of such schools that could be studied, and about whether the redistricting and/or grade

reconfiguration that might be required to make this project feasible would impair other values the Committee supports, for example community schools.

Recognizing that the development of an educational specification represents a significant dedication of staff effort, and that the execution of a feasibility study involves both effort and expense, the Committee members request a level of assurance that the County Government will give serious consideration to the results. The decision about the scope and capacity of this project is interwoven with questions on redistricting and/or grade reconfiguration on the one hand, and on the sources of funding to support the capital program on the other. In turn, these issues will affect the viability and priorities for aspects of the other programs: Security Vestibules, Head Start, Open Space Classrooms, Building Systems, and the work to correct deficiencies at Crellin Elementary and Swan Meadow School.

To gain an understanding of whether the Board of County Commissioners would support this large project, it was suggested that there be a meeting between the Board of Education and the Commissioners to discuss future funding possibilities.

- vi. **Recommendation: Single High School: Establish a standing committee to investigate the concept of single high school including its educational program, feasibility, cost, location, and community impact.**

The Committee approved the project in a 7:3 vote. Yea votes: Jim Browning, Karen DeVore, Kevin Null, Carissa Rodeheaver, Nathan Sorber, Richard Wesolowski, and Duane Yoder. Nay votes: Crystal Boal, Steven Kaufman, Jennifer Paugh

The Committee does not take a position on the merits of a single high school, and recommends that the composition of the study group reflect the same community diversity that is represented on the Strategic Facilities Committee. Supporters of the recommendation wish to see an open, public process to fully investigate the concept. Those in opposition have concerns about the merits of the concept itself.

### **III. Discussion**

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Dr. Lever reiterated he will work on a report to articulate the clear purpose and statement of values for the committee along with their final recommendations. He will post it on the google drive for their review and feedback.

Throughout the meeting committee members expressed different concerns. Concerns included: the installation of security vestibules with tempered glass instead of bullet proof glass; Swan Meadow School deficiencies had not been clearly addressed in the recommendations; possible negative impact of redistricting on families; the high number of out of area transfer students in the county which causes some of the underutilization at schools; and the uncertainty of funding from the local government.

### **IV. Adjournment**

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Jennifer Paugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Crystal Boal seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.